

## Message Text

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70

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

OIC-04 RSR-01 /181 W

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R 161748 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, GW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MINIMUM PRICE SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS

AND VEGETABLES

REF: STATE 046171

1. THE EMBASSY MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMICS, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS URGING FRG OPPOSITION TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR MINIMUM PRICES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. WE LEFT PAPERS DRAWN FROM REFTEL.

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SUBSEQUENTLY AN INTER- MINISTERIAL MEETING DECIDED ON THE GERMAN POSITION FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 19. ACCORDING TO EBERLE ( FOREIGN OFFICE, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION), THE FRG WILL SUPPORT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL ONLY IF (1) IT IS NO MORE PROTECTIVE THAN THE PROVISIONS PERMITTED BY THE GATT, (2) CITRUS JUICES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE COMMISSION'S LIST IN DEFERENCE TO US INTERESTS, AND (3) IN ORDER TO PROTECT GERMAN PRODUCERS, THE LIST OF PRODUCTS COVERED IS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CANNED PICKLES, CHERRIES, PLUMS, STRAWBERRIES AND APPLES.

2. EBERLE ADVISED THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE SEES A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES TO A COMMISSION PROPOSAL CONTAINING THE ABOVE MODIFICATIONS. IT BELIEVES SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD CREATE A LESS PROTECTIONIST SITUATION THAN CURRENTLY EXISTS SINCE FRANCE AND ITALY MAINTAIN IMPORT QUOTAS ON MANY PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. ACCORDING TO EBERLE, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HOLDS THAT ANY LIBERALIZATION OF PROCESSED FOODS AND VEGETABLES MUST BE ACCCOMPANIED BY MINIMUM PRICES IN ORDER TO PREVENT EAST EUROPEAN STATES FROM FLOODING THE EC WITH PRODUCTS WHOSE PRICES WERE NOT ECONOMICALLY BASED. WHILE EC PRODUCERS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BENEFIT FROM THE PROTECTION OF THE MINIMUM PRICES, SO WOULD OTHER WESTERN PRODUCERS INCLUDING THE US, SAID EBERLE. HE CONTENDED ALSO THAT US SALES OF THESE PRODUCTS TO THE EC WOULD PROBABLY INCREASE.

3. IN OUR CONVERSATION WE STRESSED OUR GATT BINDINGS AND EMPHASIZED THAT U. S. OPPOSITION TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE AS WELL AS TRADE DAMAGE. WE UNDERLINED THE US INTENTION TO TAKE "PROMPT AND APPROPRIATE ACTION" IN CASE OF ANY IMPAIRMENT OF US RIGHTS UNDER GATT. HILLENBRAND

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971217  
**Subject:** PROPOSED MINIMUM PRICE SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
**TAGS:** ETRD, GW, GATT  
**To:** AGR  
BRUSSELS  
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LUXEMBOURG  
PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

Type: TE

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